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CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Currently Amended). The mattress package of claim 1 wherein the perimeter piece is adhered to the first and second sheets of material and covers an interface of the first and second sheets of material
3. (Currently Amended). ~~The mattress package of claim 1~~ A mattress package comprising:
a first sheet of material positioned to cover a first side of a mattress and to extend past a perimeter of the first side of the mattress;
a second sheet of material positioned to cover a second side of the mattress and to extend past the perimeter of the second side of the mattress;
the first and second plastic sheets being joined together about the mattress;
a perimeter piece positioned about the perimeter of the mattress and which is joined with the first and second sheets of material wherein the perimeter piece extending over a portion of the first sheet of material over the first side of the mattress, and over a portion of the second sheet of material over the second side of the mattress.
4. (Currently Amended). ~~The mattress package of claim 1~~ A mattress package comprising:
a first sheet of material positioned to cover a first side of a mattress and to extend past a perimeter of the first side of the mattress;
a second sheet of material positioned to cover a second side of the mattress and to extend past the perimeter of the second side of the mattress;
the first and second plastic sheets being joined together about the mattress;
a perimeter piece positioned about the perimeter of the mattress and which is joined with the first and second sheets of material wherein the perimeter piece is continuous about the perimeter of the mattress.

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5. (Currently Amended). The mattress package of claim 1 wherein the perimeter piece is positioned substantially tightly against a border of the mattress between the first and second sides of the mattress.

6. (Currently Amended). ~~The mattress package of claim 1~~ A mattress package comprising:

a first sheet of material positioned to cover a first side of a mattress and to extend past a perimeter of the first side of the mattress;

a second sheet of material positioned to cover a second side of the mattress and to extend past the perimeter of the second side of the mattress;

the first and second plastic sheets being joined together about the mattress;

a perimeter piece positioned about the perimeter of the mattress and which is joined with the first and second sheets of material wherein the perimeter piece is in the form of a tape with adhesive on one side of the tape.

7. (Currently amended). ~~The mattress package of claim 1~~ A mattress package comprising:

a first sheet of material positioned to cover a first side of a mattress and to extend past a perimeter of the first side of the mattress;

a second sheet of material positioned to cover a second side of the mattress and to extend past the perimeter of the second side of the mattress;

the first and second plastic sheets being joined together about the mattress;

a perimeter piece positioned about the perimeter of the mattress and which is joined with the first and second sheets of material wherein the perimeter piece is in the form of a sheet of material with a length at least equal to or greater than a perimeter of a mattress, and with a width equal to or greater than a width of a mattress border.

8. (Currently Amended). The mattress package of claim 1 wherein the perimeter piece has a thickness greater than a thickness of the first or second sheets of material.

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9. (Currently Amended). The mattress package of claim ~~1~~ 3 wherein the perimeter piece extends over at least one thermal seal or weld between the first and second sheets of material.
10. (Currently Amended). The mattress package of claim ~~1~~ 3 wherein the perimeter piece is mechanically attached to the first or second sheet of material.
11. (Original) A mattress package comprising:
a barrier layer which substantially encloses a mattress, the barrier layer having first and second sheets dimensioned to cover major surfaces of the mattress, the first and second sheets of material also extending over a border of the mattress, and being attached together;
a perimeter piece attached to the barrier layer about a perimeter of the mattress and proximate to a border of the mattress, the perimeter piece in the form of a continuous band of material with a length at least equal to or greater than the perimeter of the mattress, and with a width at least equal to or greater than a width of the mattress border.
12. (Currently Amended) The mattress package of claim 11 wherein the sheets of the barrier layer are sealed together ~~at at least one point~~ by a seal and the perimeter piece extends over the seal ~~between the sheets of the barrier layer~~.
13. (Original) The mattress package of claim 11 wherein the sheets of the barrier layer are joined to form a bag in which the mattress is positioned.
14. (Original) The mattress package of claim 11 wherein a thickness of the perimeter piece is greater than a thickness of the barrier layer.
15. (Original) The mattress package of claim 11 wherein the perimeter piece is adhesively bonded to the barrier layer.

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16. (Original) The mattress package of claim 11 wherein the perimeter piece extends over the barrier layer over the border of the mattress and over a portion of the first and second sheets of the barrier layer.
17. (Canceled).
18. (Original) The mattress package of claim 11 wherein the perimeter piece extends over a thermally formed seal of the first and second sheets of the barrier layer.
19. (Original) The mattress package of claim 11 wherein the perimeter piece fits substantially tightly against the border of the mattress over the barrier layer.
20. (Original) The mattress package of claim 11 wherein the perimeter piece has indicia on an outside surface of the perimeter piece.
21. (Original) A mattress package comprising a barrier layer which substantially encloses a mattress, the barrier layer having adjoining sheets of material which cover opposing major surfaces of the mattress and a border of the mattress between the major surfaces, at least one seal between the sheets of the barrier layer, and a perimeter piece overlying the barrier layer and about a perimeter of the mattress and closely proximate to a border of the mattress, the perimeter piece having a length at least equal to a length of the mattress border, and a width equal to or greater than width of the mattress border.
22. (Original) The mattress package of claim 21 wherein the perimeter piece extends over a portion of each of the major surfaces of the mattress adjacent the mattress border.
23. (Original) The mattress package of claim 21 wherein the perimeter piece is located on an exterior side of the barrier layer.

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24. (Original) The mattress package of claim 21 wherein the perimeter piece is located on an interior side of the barrier layer.

25. (Original) A mattress package comprising, in combination:

a mattress having spaced apart planar sides and a border which extends between the spaced apart planar sides and which is located at a perimeter of the mattress;

a barrier layer which substantially encapsulates the spaced apart planar sides and the border of the mattress;

a perimeter piece positioned about the border of the mattress and substantially covering the border and extending at least partially over a portion of each of the spaced apart planar sides of the mattress.

26. (Original) The mattress package of claim 25 wherein the barrier layer is placed directly against exterior surfaces of the mattress.

27. (Original) The mattress package of claim 25 wherein the perimeter piece is located internal to the barrier layer.

28. (Original) The mattress package of claim 25 further comprising an adhesive in combination with the perimeter piece.

29. (Original) The mattress package of claim 28 wherein the perimeter piece is adhesively secured to at least a portion of the mattress.

30. (Original) The mattress package of claim 28 wherein the perimeter piece is adhesively secured to at least a portion of the barrier layer.